

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division  
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 9226

21 July 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

POOLE, WILLIAM D. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Company A 2d Battalion 501st Infantry 101st Airborne Division APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: NA

Date action: 13 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Private First Class Poole distinguished himself while serving as assistant machine gunner with Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A had just moved to Fire Support Base Airborne in order to secure the area prior to moving into the northern part of the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. During the early hours, a barrage of mortar rounds began to fall on the partially completed camp, many of them smashing into bunkers manned by friendly troops. Simultaneously, a wave of North Vietnamese sappers pierced the perimeter, heaving satchel charges through the bunker apertures. The friendly force was caught by surprise by the attack, but fought back heroically. Private Poole was serving as an assistant machine gunner for the Second Platoon and when the platoon defenses were threatened by a wave of satchel-carrying sappers, the machine gunner directed fire into the battalion size enemy force, attempting to keep the sappers at a distance where the deadly satchel charges could not be employed. During the ground fighting a deluge of mortar rounds impacted within the perimeter. At a critical point in the action, Private Poole's weapon ran low on ammunition. He reacted immediately to the emergency and abandoned the comparative safety of his bunker to crawl toward the ammunition dump twenty meters away. Enemy mortars continued to impact near him, and North Vietnamese sappers were lurking to his front, but he continued, intent on reaching the much needed ammunition. Although a burst of shrapnel hit him he continued to crawl until he reached his goal. As he was moving back toward his bunker with the ammunition, a mortar round exploded to his immediate front. Though mortally wounded Private First Class Poole tossed the belts of ammunition toward his friendly bunker. His comrades were thus able to retrieve the ammunition and the machine gun was able to continue issuing sustained fire. Private Poole's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

*Edward Hayes, Maj*  
DAVID HAYES  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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